

50X1-HUM

LANGUAGE Russian

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE           Ogonek.

AN EXPERIMENTAL STUDY OF IMMUNITY CONFERRED  
AS A RESULT OF INFECTION WITH PULMONARY PLAGUE

According to a story, written on a popular-science level, by Ya. Miletskiy in Ogonek, physician N. K. Zav'yalova, while treating a patient suffering from pulmonary plague in a country outside the USSR /according to the description, apparently in Central or Eastern Asia/ accidentally caught the infection from the patient as a result of exposing her eyes, which were not protected with the customary goggles. During the course of the primary infection acquired in this manner, Dr Zav'yalova carried out observations on herself and kept a diary. According to Miletskiy, she treated herself by a new and superior method developed by Soviet scientists (a method which involves injections) and recovered after a long and difficult case of pulmonary plague.

Knowing that persons who have had bubonic plague are thereafter immune (during the 1827 epidemic of bubonic plague, persons who had had the disease and recovered were employed as hospital attendants, because they were immune from subsequent infection), Zav'yalova decided to find out whether immunity is also acquired after pulmonary plague. With that end in view, she purposely infected herself again with pulmonary plague by omitting repeatedly the protective mask while working with infected guinea pigs. She did this 8 months after recovering from the first (accidental) infection, and actually caught the disease for a second time.

During the course of the disease, Zav'yalova studied on herself the peculiarities of an infection of this type [second infection] and of the manner in which it responds to the Soviet method of treatment. The disease, while serious, was much milder in this case than after the first infection. Zav'yalova recovered completely and there were no lasting aftereffects. She published the results of her observations, making a valuable contribution to science which hitherto lacked data on the nature of immunity acquired after pulmonary plague.

[Two photographs of Zav'yalova accompany the article. On one she is lying in a hospital bed, while on her side sits an attendant who wears a complete set of protective clothing of the type used when there is danger of contagion from a plague patient.]

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**SECRET**

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

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